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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Jean-Louis BOYER et al.

Group Art Unit: 3641

Application No.: 09/101,508

Examiner: T. Chambers

Filed: September 30, 1998

Docket No.: 100983

For: PROGRAMMABLY TIMABLE PRIMING DEVICE

APPLICANTS' SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

On May 28, 2003, an interview was held with Examiner Troy Chambers and Applicants' representative, Paul Daebeler, the undersigned, in attendance.

Applicants wish to express their appreciation to Examiner Chambers for the courtesies extended Applicants' representative at the interview.

The purpose of the interview was to discuss the Office Action mailed February 12, 2003 and the Amendment filed May 22 in response thereto. No exhibit was shown. The discussion was made referencing Figures 1-5 of the application, the Amendment filed May 22, and Jullian, U.S. Patent 5,014,622. Primary emphasis of the discussion was directed to §112 issues regarding claims 14-16, and 35 U.S.C. §102 issues regarding Jullian.

Applicants' representative initiated the interview by pointing out that Jullian did not disclose that "timing means and power generating means have resistors limiting the current intensity, the first power intensity from the power supply not being sufficient, even as other components fail to actuate the firing element" as recited in claim 14 and shown in Figs. 1-5.

In addition, Applicant's representative asserted that Jullian failed to disclose "power generating means for generating, through a resistive circuit having resistors limiting current intensity, a current intensity sufficient to actuate the firing element upon expiration of a timing interval, the power generating means comprising a capacitor, switching means, and a controlling means for controlling the switching means by allowing the capacitor to be charged for a charging time during the timing interval and then discharged, the discharge causing the firing element to act on the primer" as recited in claim 16 and shown in Figs. 1-5. Further, Applicants' representative referred to page 12, first and second paragraphs, in pointing out that the recited features of independent claims 14 and 16 prevented the power supply from going straight to an exploding device when an electronic circuit is damaged in order to increase safety. Instead of increasing safety, Jullian's device will become short-circuited and ignite a conventional explosive charge if Jullian's device experienced hazardous phenomena. Examiner Chambers indicated that he would review Jullian and consider our remarks.

At Examiner Chambers request, the bulk of the time was spent discussing the rejection of claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The points discussed by Applicants' representative are found in the May 22 Amendment. In addition, the Examiner asserted that the phrase "the timing means and power generation means have resistors limiting the current intensity" as recited in claim 14 was indefinite, because the resistors could not belong to both the timing means and the power generation means. Although Applicants' representative asserted that a circuit component could perform functions for both the "power generating means" and the "timing means", Examiner Chambers disagreed. After discussing Examiner Chamber's 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph concerns, Examiner Chamber's and Applicants' representative did not reach an agreement. However, Examiner

Chamber's agreed to a second personal interview to discuss proposed claim amendments after he prepared and mailed an Action responding to the May 22 Amendment.

The interview concluded with Examiner Chambers indicating that he would consider Applicants' remarks and the Amendment as filed May 22.

Respectfully submitted,



William P. Berridge
Registration No. 30,024

Paul F. Daebeler
Registration No. 35,852

PFD/dap

Date: May 30, 2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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